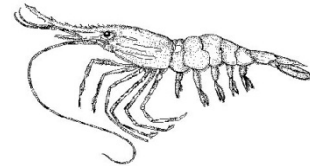

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



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Date: February 24, 2012

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Time: 10:30 a.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP ANNOUNCEMENT FISHERY CLOSURE

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the closure of the commercial pot shrimp fishery and the following information concerning the 2011/2012 winter season.

The following areas will close by regulation at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2012:

District 5: Estimated harvest: 9,000 pounds, 11,000 pounds remaining. District 5 is expected to reopen by emergency order on May 15, 2012.

District 4: The harvest in District 4 was confidential with less than three vessels harvesting shrimp. District 4 is not expected to reopen by emergency order on May 15, 2012.

District 15 (Remainder): Estimated harvest: 9,000 pounds, 6,000 pounds remaining. Section 15 is expected to reopen by emergency order on May 15, 2012.

The Department will announce areas open for the summer fishery no later than May 1, 2012. By May 1, the Department will have completed processing of shrimp samples taken from the fisheries and surveys and will have had to time to analyze all available harvest and biological data for areas with remaining quota. Areas that are determined to have less than desirable stock health or areas that have low remaining quota will not reopen for the summer fishery.

All shrimp pot gear must be removed from the water or placed in storage by the time of the closure. Pots may be stored in the waters of Districts 4, 5, and 15 (west of a line from Little Island light to Seduction Point) until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Stored pots must have all doors secured fully open and all bait and bait containers removed.

Shrimp tickets must be submitted to an ADF&G office within seven days of the closure. Fishermen are reminded that catcher sellers intending to sell shrimp to persons unlicensed to process shrimp (i.e. dock sales) must fill out an ADF&G fish ticket indicating the weight of the shrimp on board, by species, before any shrimp are removed from the vessel [5 AAC 31.143.(d)].

Catcher processor vessels fishing in these areas are required to contact ADF&G and report within 72 hours of the closure. Catcher processor vessels must report the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the open shrimp-fishing period.

Closed Areas	Pounds Harvested	Closure Date
District 1	54,100	October 26, 2011
District 2	75,400	October 20, 2011
Section 3-A	97,600	October 19, 2011
Section 3-B/C	40,600	October 23, 2011
District 4	Confidential	February 28, 2012
District 5	9,000	February 28, 2012
District 6	32,000	October 10, 2011
District 7	60,100	October 12, 2011
District 8	12,500	October 22, 2011
District 9	11,000	October 10, 2011
District 10	52,600	October 7, 2011
District 11	21,300	October 6, 2011
District 12 Tenakee	-	Not Open
District 12 Remainder	8,400	November 11, 2011
Section 13-A/B	14,700	December 3, 2011
Section 13-C	37,300	October 4, 2011
District 14	-	Not Open
District 15	9,000	February 28, 2012
District 16		Not Open
SE Pot Shrimp Est. Harvest	535,600	

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
<i>Shrimp Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905		